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an admirable index. This work is now practically a thesaurus of what is known upon the subject.

*La Nature et la Genèse des Instincts d'après Weismann*, by E. MAIGRE. *L'Année Psychologique*, Vol. XIII, 1906, 230-244.

In this article Maigre has given an exposition of the theory of instincts which appears in Vol. I of Weismann's *The Evolution Theory*, 1904, pp. 141 *et seq.* (English Edition).

For Weismann instincts have a physiological basis in the cells and fibres of the nervous system. They vary and thus become subject to the operation of natural selection. But Maigre points out some instances where Weismann's theory fails. He cites the case of the kitten of Lawson Tait, and the skye-terrier of Hurt. He further reminds the reader that much comparative work is needed on this subject and believes that in the end we shall have to go back to protoplasm for the basis of an explanation of instinct.

W. L. GARD.

*L'Inibizione Motrice: studiata sperimentalmente negli ammalati di mente*, by ETTORE PATINI. Ed. "Il Lavoro Internazionale Illustrato," Napoli, 1907. pp. 256.

This contribution to experimental psychology is dedicated to Prof. Leonardo Bianchi, with whom the author has worked. It is a comprehensive study of inhibition including a review of the various theories and the forms under which it appears as physiological, cerebral, psychic and psycho-somatic inhibition. The most interesting portion of the book, about one-half, is that devoted to the author's own experiments upon both normal and insane subjects. Libertini (1895) studied cortical inhibition in dogs by comparing the reflex reaction time of normal animals with that of dogs in which portions of the brain had been removed. He found that extirpation of the left frontal lobe diminished the time of the reflex of the fore leg, and that the same result, in a lesser degree, followed from extirpation of the occipital lobe. Fano, from similar experiments, came to the conclusion that the cerebral cortex exercises a tonic inhibitory action upon the spinal cord. Libertini also experimented on the reflex reaction time of the insane and reached the following conclusions:

In all forms of mental maladies the reflex time of arm movements is noticeably shortened.

In normal individuals this is a constant which oscillates between 83σ and 86σ. This diminishes in different forms of mental disease proportionally to the gravity of the affection and the degree of the patient's mental decadence.

In general, forms of exalted insanity show a greater reduction of reaction time than those of a depressive nature.

It is possible experimentally to reduce the latent time of the spinal reflex both in normal individuals and in the insane, the possible reduction being twice as great in the former as in the latter.

Patini's experiments differ from the preceding in the introduction of a new element and an inversion of the problem. The previous experiments have tested the influence of brain upon movement, those of Patini are directed to finding the effect of voluntary movement upon the brain and therefore upon the inhibition exerted by it upon voluntary movement.

His method of experiment was as follows: The subject was seated between two tables, upon one of which was arranged the apparatus necessary for obtaining an accurate record for the time of reflex reaction of the left arm to an electric stimulus. This consisted of a Hipp chronoscope, a Dubois-Raymond induction coil and a special inter-